## AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Paragraph 8 of the specification should be amended as follows:

[0008] FIG. [[1(a)]] <u>1</u> is simplified block diagram of a thread selection unit in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention.

Paragraph 22 of the specification should be amended as follows:

[0022] Comparator 340 also compares maxtime value MAXTIME[ITV] to count value COUNT from counter 230. When count value COUNT is equal to maxtime value MAXTIME[ITV] comparator 340 resets counter 230 and increments internal thread counter 310. However, comparator 340 also determines whether maxtime value MAXTIME[ITV] is equal to zero. When maxtime value MAXTIME[ITV] is equal to zero, comparator 340 increments internal thread counter 310 so that thread ITV, which has a maxtime value of zero can not become priority thread PT. When maxtime value MAXTIME[ITV] is not equal to zero, comparator 340 causes priority thread register [[310]] <u>350</u> to store internal thread value ITV as priority thread value PTV.

2